

REMARKS

Claims 5, 7-9 and 12 have been amended. Reexamination, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the discussion below.

Applicants' invention is a system and process for providing communication between a data bus and a plurality of nodes which communicate with each other through the data bus. The nodes T1-T3 are connected through optical transmission segments L1-L3 and synchronizing pulses are provided for each node. Information signals from the nodes are transmitted with a particular hierarchical transmission sequence. This transmission of information signals includes starting transmission so that the information signals are independent of any of the nodes and the start time is only a function of that particular hierarchical transmission sequence.

With this system it is possible to increase the degree of efficiency by reducing the waiting time between the signals which are to be transmitted (specification page 5, lines 20-23).

Claims 5-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, with respect to the term "a light guide" in claims 5 and 9. In response to this rejection, Applicants have amended claims 5 and 9 so that they refer to an "optical transmission segment" which is consistent with the specification.

Claims 7-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for the reasons indicated at item 8 concerning a lack of antecedent basis. In response to

this rejection, Applicants have amended claims 7-12 to provide a proper antecedent basis.

Claims 5, 7-9, 11 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as anticipated by the reference to Pogue (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,512) while claims 6 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over Pogue '512.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections on the grounds that each of independent claims 5 and 9 provide method steps or structure limitations which are not available or obvious from the reference to Pogue.

'512 concerns a high speed multimedia data network using a fiber optic data bus arranged in a star configuration. The design interface of Pogue allows a device to communicate with the high speed network without requiring the device to have the processing power to receive and transmit data according to the protocols and demands of the network. The interface is configured to match the device to which it is connected. This allows nodes to be insulated from the high speed network complexity because it receives data from and provides data to the nodes according to the node's data format. And, it receives data from, and provides data to, the network according to the network's data format.

According to the statement of the rejection at item 11, the information signals are transmitted with a hierarchical transmission sequence with reference being made to column 1, lines 23 to 47 and column 4, lines 22 to 32. Applicants submit that the hierarchy discussed at column 1 does not concern the transmission sequence but rather the network architecture, wherein the functions are provided

as a linear succession of layers. Furthermore, column 4, lines 22 to 32 discusses a master control which provides a sequence used as the frequency reference for the entire rest of the system so that the master controller provides an almost matched node clocking system and all synchronization is derived from a common time base. Thus, it is submitted that there are no information signals transmitted with a hierarchical transmission sequence. Additionally, there is no transmission with a start time which is only a function of the hierarchical transmission sequence. Neither column 4, lines 61 to 65 nor Figure 6 show such a relationship. Each node in the '512 reference provides a start of transmission at the beginning of its particular time slot. The built in delays in the '512 reference are used to compensate, at the received end of the transmission, for residual errors that were not eliminated by the transmission of an earlier signal.

It is also submitted that Pogue '512 does not disclose that the information signals are independent of any one of the nodes. Column 13, lines 25 to 43 discusses how different node devices have different requirements based on the amount of data they produce. It is not seen that this supports the indication that Pogue has information signals which are independent of any of the nodes. Furthermore, and as indicated above, there is certainly no showing of the starting of a transmission at a start time which is only a function of the hierarchical transmission sequence.

Dependent claims 6 and 10 further limit independent claims 5 and 9 to provide additional features which are not obvious variations in light of the different concepts involved between the present invention and the disclosure of Pogue.

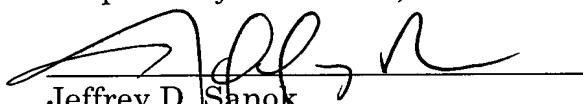
Therefore, in view of the distinguishing features between the claimed invention and the reference, which features are not shown or disclosed or made obvious by the reference, Applicants respectfully request that this application containing claims 5-12 be allowed and be passed to issue.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #080437.49160US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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